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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,212	12/02/2003	Edward J. Kocneman	58482-010101	5429

7590 07/13/2007
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EXAMINER

FOREMAN, JONATHAN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3736

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/727,212	Applicant(s) KOENEMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Jonathan ML Foreman	Art Unit 3736	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-28 and 45-68 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/21/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 1 – 28 and 45 – 63 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 4/6/07.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 29 – 32, 34, 35, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,012,820 to Meyer.

In regard to claims 29 – 32, 34, 35, 38 and 39, Meyer discloses a system for neuromuscular function reeducation and restoring physical function of at least one neuromuscular system associated with an at least one joint in a patient, the system comprising: a motion causing device (9) adjacent to the at least one joint, the motion causing device permitting self-actuation of the at least one neuromuscular system; at least one force sensitive resistor sensor (Col. 4, lines 31 – 40) for measuring a parameter indicative of muscle resistance; at least one joint position sensor for measuring joint movement (Col. 6, lines 11 – 16); at least one neuromuscular electrical stimulating (NMES) system for providing neuromuscular stimulation to the at least one neuromuscular system (Col. 5, lines 1 – 9); an electronic memory system (41) that stores information related to the patient; at least one EMG sensor (Col. 5, lines 22 – 29) measuring the electrical activity of the at least one neuromuscular system; and a controller implementing a protocol for affecting the joint motion

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based on the measurements from the sensors thereby restoring physical function of the neuromuscular system associated with the at least one joint. The stored information includes compliance and performance and can provide the information on command. The EMG sensor is used to measure the electrical activity of an agonist neuromuscular system (Col. 5, lines 22 – 29).

Meyer discloses a system for use with a wrist joint.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 33, 36, 37 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,012,820 to Meyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,010,468 to Grove et al.

In regard to claims 33, 36, 37 and 44, Meyer discloses a motion causing device (9), but fails to disclose the motion causing device being an air-muscle that shortens in length upon inflation to cause the joint to pivot and includes at least one port for supplying air. Nor does Meyer disclose a microprocessor for controlling a valve to supply air to the air-muscle. Grove et al. disclose a system for restoring physical function of a neuromuscular system and teach a motion causing device being an air-muscle (133) that shortens in length upon inflation to cause the joint to pivot and includes at least one port for supplying air. Grove et al. teach a microprocessor for controlling a valve for supplying air to the air-muscle (Col. 12, lines 47 – 60). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the motion causing device as

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disclosed by Meyer to include an air-muscle as taught by Grove et al. in order to provide the system with an easily controllably motion causing device.

6. Claims 40 - 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,012,820 to Meyer in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143277 to Wood et al.

In regards to claims 40 – 43, Meyer discloses obtaining measurements form an EMG sensor and a force sensor. However, Meyer fails to disclose displaying the measurements from the EMG sensor and the force sensor. Wood et al. disclose a system for restoring physical function of a neuromuscular system and teach displaying measurements from an EMG sensor and a force sensor [0055] for a patient to monitor the compliance and performance. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system as disclosed by Meyer to include a display for displaying the measurements made by the EMG sensor and the force sensor as taught by Wood et al. in order to encourage patients to continue with their exercises [0010].

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan ML Foreman whose telephone number is (571)272-4724. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm.

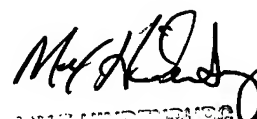
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571)272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



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